

I am adamantly opposed to changing the present framework for defining and determining Net Neutrality and, of course, in favor of maintaining the present regime of that principle. First the world-wide web and its internet represents the result of public invention under DARPA. It should be understood as a material property of the public and therefore alienable only to the extent that serves the public good. It is not only a public sphere as the broadcast realm was and is defined by law, but has in addition material claims of being a public equity. Promises have been made in the case of broadcasting and other regulated areas for compensatory services to the public and have not been kept. There is no reason to suppose that self-policing would work in this case either. The only reason to scrap the present definition of the internet as public utility is to make unbridled commodification inevitable, throwing public good and fairness of use out the window.

Good regulation consists in regulation on as simple a basis as possible. Continuing the present definition of the internet as public utility sets up the simplest possible criterion and the only basis for secure regulation in the public interest.